

R. R. STRIKE GROWS; EXPECTED TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT NATION

Traffic Tied Up in Toledo
—Strikes Threatened
At Milwaukee and St.
Louis Gateways to
North and Southwest
—Crest of Rebellion
Not Reached.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 8.—The railroad strike has spread to Los Angeles where early today the yardmen's association said between 500 and 1,000 men on the Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and Salt Lake lines had walked out in sympathy with the strikers on eastern roads.

The strikers said their action here was the result of being underpaid and predicted the entire Pacific coast, if not the whole nation would be affected soon.

Toledo, Ohio, April 8.—Six hundred switchmen employed in the local railroad switching district walked out in sympathy with switchmen in other cities today. It is predicted that all traffic will be tied up within 24 hours.

Chicago, April 8.—The strike of "insurgent" members of railroad (Continued on Page Eight.)

HOUSE STARTS DEBATE ON ENDING OF WAR

CRUELTY CAUSES DIVORCE ACTION

**Judge Curtis Gives Injured
Wife Freedom and
Alimony.**

Injuries received when her husband knocked her down caused her to be confined in a hospital for eight days. Lillian M. Simpson of this city, testified in the Superior Court today when she was granted a divorce from Adelbert B. Simpson of this city. Mrs. Simpson also testified that her husband dragged her about the floor by the hair.

Mrs. C. I. Crosby, who was prominent in the work of aiding soldiers and sailors during the war, was a witness for Mrs. Simpson. She said she heard the wife's cries of distress. The couple were married July 1, 1917. Judge Curtis granted Mrs. Simpson alimony of \$15 a week for the support of three minor children.

Distinguished Service Cross Given La Croix

The presentation of the Distinguished Service Cross, together with citation, awarded by the U. S. Government to Otto H. La Croix, of Milford, Conn., for extraordinary heroism in action, was made by Sergeant T. S. O'Brien, G. S. I., in charge of the St. O'Brien Army Recruiting Station, today at the factory of the Crown Corset company, in this city, where La Croix is employed.

The citation is as follows:

General Orders No. 87.

War Department.

Washington, July 5, 1913.

VI.—Award of the distinguished service cross. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 5, 1913, the distinguished service cross was awarded by the commanding general, American Expeditionary Forces, for extraordinary heroism in action in Europe to the following named enlisted man of the American Expeditionary Forces:

Otto H. La Croix (Army serial No. 168350), corporal, Company A, 388th Infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action near Binarville, France, October 1, 1918. When his company commander and first sergeant had been wounded, he rallied the company and continued the advance, fearlessly exposing himself to hostile fire and inspiring the men with his own courage. Home address, Mrs. Adeline La Croix, 4 Park Circle, Milford, Conn. By order of the Secretary of War.

P. C. HARRIS,
The Adjutant General.

MILLION DOLLAR AIRPLANE BLAZE

Dallas, Texas, April 8.—Several airplanes, large supplies of lumber, the engine house building and the unloading sheds at the army aviation repair depot north of Dallas were destroyed by fire early this morning. The loss was estimated by army officers at one million dollars.

WILL DETERMINE ENGLAND'S STAND

**Italian Minister Believes No
Serious Difficulties Will
Result.**

LONDON, April 8.—Premier Lloyd George and his cabinet will meet today, presumably to determine the attitude Great Britain will take relative to the occupation of the German cities east of the Rhine by the French. For this reason the conference of Allied premiers and foreign ministers, which has been arranged for today, and at which the German situation was to have been discussed, has been postponed. It will probably be held tomorrow.

Baron Scialoja, the Italian foreign minister who is here for the conference, expressed the opinion to The Associated Press today that there was no possibility of the Franco-German situation bringing about serious differences between the Allies.

"Intimations that there is danger of such a situation arising within the councils of France and her former comrade powers are entirely unjustified," the foreign minister said. "I have every confidence that there is nothing in the present state of affairs that will make it difficult for the allies to reach a common understanding and maintain a solid front." (Continued on Page Eight.)

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Fire Does Damage Of \$20,000

**Blaze at Metal Company
Gives Men Stiff
Fight.**

Fire which started on the third floor of Factory No. 2, Bridgeport Metal Goods Co., at Carbon and Washburn streets, about 6:45 o'clock this morning, gave local firemen a hard hour's battle, and caused damage amounting to approximately \$20,000. The loss is said to be completely covered by insurance.

The blaze started from a flare-up in a pitch pot on the top floor of a three story frame building, and spread rapidly across the roof and floor. A general alarm was turned in and when the firemen arrived they found the top floor ablaze and the flames shooting up an elevator shaft and staircase.

Five lines of hose were coupled up and heavy streams of water and chemicals were soon directed against the blaze. The flames which had gained a foothold in the elevator shaft proved a source of considerable trouble to the firemen, and it was only after a stiff fight lasting over an hour that the fire was finally brought under control. Excellent work on the part of the fire fighters undoubtedly saved the entire building from destruction.

The building in which the fire occurred is separated from the main plant of the metal goods company, and is owned by J. H. McNamara of Lafayette street. It is estimated that the structure was damaged to the approximate amount of \$15,000. Stock damage, according to an official of the company, will probably amount to \$5,000. Water was responsible for the greater part of this loss. Factory No. 2 is used for the manufacture of flashlight batteries.

Successful Completion of Anthracite Contract Lies With Them.

New York, April 8.—Officials of the United Mine Workers declared today that successful completion of a new wage agreement for the anthracite coal fields depends on whether the mine owners grant the workers an adequate wage increase; the closed shop with the check-off system of collecting dues; the payment for coal on the legal ton basis wherever practical and enforcement of an eight hour day throughout the industry.

These are the chief issues involved from the union's point of view, he said, and the 200,000 miners in the field have insisted that they be incorporated in the new contract now being drawn up here by a sub-committee. Mr. Lauck was the first witness at hearings on the drafting of legislation to carry into effect such of the operators that there can be no compromise on the demand for a closed shop with the "check off" included.

URGES REJECTION OF WILSON PLAN

**Unrest Due to Demand of
Labor For Control In
Industry.**

Washington, April 8.—Flat rejection of the plan proposed by President Wilson's second industrial conference for the settling of labor unrest was urged before the Senate labor committee today by W. Jett Lauck, secretary of the old war labor board. Mr. Lauck was the first witness at hearings on the drafting of legislation to carry into effect such of the operators that there can be no compromise on the demand for a closed shop with the "check off" included.

Mr. Lauck told the committee industrial unrest throughout the world was due to the fact that labor organizations were "demanding a greater measure of control by labor in industry" as well as wages, hours and shorter hours. This, he said, was due to a "new conception of democracy" requiring that the principles of political democracy be taken into the industrial field. The conference report he said, did not meet this.

SCOTT DEATH WAS ACCIDENT MUST REPORT COMMITMENTS

New York, April 8.—The New York Stock Exchange today directed its members to report their commitments both long and short, in Stutz Motor trading in which was suspended when short efforts to cover caused great increases in its value.

The exchange continued to maintain silence in regard to the conditions which Allan A. Ryan, chairman of the Stutz board, has announced will be satisfactory to him for a settlement of the matter.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Panama, April 7.—Captain McKenzie of the American steamer Santa Tecla is in the Ancon hospital following an alleged attempt to commit suicide.

The Santa Tecla will be navigated to New York by a Panama canal pilot.

16 HURT AS CARS COLLIDE

**Driver of Jitney Possibly
Fatally
Injured.**

Sixteen people were hurt, one possibly fatally, this morning when a jitney bus driven south on Middle street by Joseph Petroski, of 31 Summer street, and a trolley car, west bound on Fairfield avenue, collided at the corner, the force of the impact sending the bus up on the sidewalk and throwing many of the passengers to the street.

The driver of the jitney was found unconscious by Dr. J. A. Maxwell who was summoned to the spot in the Emergency ambulance and at St. Vincent's hospital this noon his condition was said to be rather critical. He is suffering from several fractured ribs and possible internal injuries.

Most of the passengers in the bus were women, and the greater majority of them suffered from minor contusions and lacerations from flying glass. Two of the more seriously hurt are Marie Bogandy, 17, of 237 East Washington avenue, who was badly cut in the left leg by glass, and Louise Hurst, 21, of 27 Remington street, who suffered probable injury to the spine and severe bruises. Those two and Petroski were the only ones taken to the hospital, the others receiving treatment on the scene or at the Emergency hospital.

Others injured in the crash were Hazel Tolles, 20, and Gertrude Tolles, 17, both of 124 Artie street, the first named suffering from contusions of the chest and the second from a laceration of the under lip where her teeth punctured it; Louis Whippy, 23, of 1192 Noble avenue, right wrist sprained; Bessie Stokes, 35, of 537 Lindley street, contusions of the left leg; John Kiefe, 30, of 325 Harriet street, abrasions of the legs and sprained right hand; Josie Corbette, 25, 844 Kossuth street, abrasions of the legs; May Kropp, 24, of Boston avenue, laceration of the scalp; Anna Sullivan, 22, 325 Harriet street, bruised face; Della Keirstead, 28, 76 Barnum avenue, shock; Winifred Colligan, 325 Harriet street, bruised face; Fannie Pizolo, 34, 214 Olive street, sprained back; Amice Agala, 19, 214 Olive street, shock; and Helen Burns, 22, of 1055 Pembroke street, bruises of head and side.

Blame for the accident has not yet been fixed by the police, some witnesses claiming that the motorman was traveling at an excessive rate of speed and in violation of the right of way which the jitney had at that time, while others hold the driver of the trolley at fault. The investigation has necessarily been rather one-sided so far because of the condition of Petroski at the hospital. The trolley was in charge of Motorman Harold Benson, Conductor William Fruth, both in employ of the Connecticut Company for two years and considered reliable men.

Most Pretentious Revolutionary Plot

El Paso, Tex., April 8.—Five persons were under arrest today and the federal grand jury had evidence which might lead to other arrests in connection with what federal officers said was one of the most pretentious Mexican revolutionary plots ever conceived on the border.

But for the arrest by the military forces in the Big Bend district, if a Mexican and American plot to seize Francisco Villa, officers admit the plan for the seizure of Lower California and simultaneous campaigns against Sonora, Sinaloa and Chihuahua might have developed into serious proportions.

The messages carried by Andres H. Villages and Concepcion Perez, the latter said to be a niece of Villa, furnished information which led to the arrest at Los Angeles of Colonel Lamberto Chavez of Villa's army or a charge of attempting to smuggle arms in Mexico, and the Mexican arrest of A. Borboa and his aide on a similar charge.

According to details of the alleged plot the revolutionists were to cross into Lower California from the United States, seize arms and ammunition, of which there is a big supply, and conduct simultaneous campaigns against Sonora and Sinaloa while Villa launched a vigorous campaign in Chihuahua to divert federal troops from the other two commonwealths.

When the movement was to commence was not announced and details of the plot are being kept secret pending further investigation by federal authorities of alleged violation of the American neutrality.

START CLEAN-UP EARLY IN MAY

The "Clean-Up Campaign" in Bridgeport will start the week of May 3 it was announced this morning by Capt. Ed Mura of the Chamber of Commerce after a meeting this morning in the Welfare building at which were representatives of the Health department, street department, and park department, all of these city organizations to co-operate in putting Bridgeport's streets, yards, cellars and gardens in "apple pie" shape for the coming summer.

Further details of the campaign and added features expected to be introduced by the Neighborhood Improvement Association will be announced later.

RESTORE ORDER IN FRANKFORT

ARBUCCI DIES OF HIS WOUND

**Was Shot By Patrolman In
a Three Cornered
Fight.**

Luigi Arbucci, of Hurd avenue, who was shot by Patrolman Herbert Stowe, of the Fourth precinct, during a fight at the corner of Main and Grand streets, Sunday night, died this morning in St. Vincent's hospital as the result of the wound inflicted upon him by the officer.

The police are now endeavoring to locate some of the dead man's friends or relatives. It was at first believed that he came to this city from Waterbury, but the authorities of that city disclaim any knowledge of the man. A report that Arbucci was living with a married sister in Hurd avenue is now being investigated.

The fight in which Arbucci received his death wound was a three-cornered affair between himself, Ambrosia Del Noria, of 42 Goodsell street, and Officer Stowe. Arbucci stabbed Del Noria with a stiletto, and then made for the officer, but was dropped in his tracks by a shot from the policeman's gun. From evidence presented at the coroner's investigation it seems that Officer Stowe acted simply in self-defense.

DEFICIT IS UP TO BOARD

**Implication Made Today By
Apportionment
Member.**

It was stated this morning by a member of the Board of Apportionment, in regard to the statement credited to the Board of Education that the latter body has not received all the money promised it and must start the year with a deficit, that a year ago the Board of Apportionment appropriated the sum of \$65,000, which sum, according to the recommendation of the City Auditor, would have enabled the board to "square up" all the teachers' salaries and start this year with a clean slate.

While the member of the Board of Apportionment did not actually say, the inference may be drawn that this appropriation of the Board of Apportionment, if applied as intended would have done away with this year's deficit and the presence of the deficit now is a matter for which the Board of Education only is responsible.

RETURNS HAD MANY ERRORS

Hartford, Conn., April 8.—Approximately 40 percent of the income tax returns filled out by taxpayers of this city last month were found by government auditors to contain errors, United States Internal Revenue Collector James J. Walsh said today. In some cases taxpayers paid to the department more money than was expected of them, but in the majority of cases it was found that they failed to make payment of certain items. Altogether, if these numerous items were not checked up caught by the federal auditors, the government would stand to lose many thousands of dollars — how many, Collector Walsh was not in a position to state.

About 150,000 returns were filed in this state. The corporation returns about 8,500 in number are sent on to the internal revenue department in Washington for scrutiny. Collector Walsh said wherever returns were found a letter explaining the error was sent to the taxpayer and a request made to forward the amount due.

TOOK MOTOR UNLAWFULLY

Claiming that her automobile was unlawfully attached by a sheriff acting in behalf of the Maurice Soloway Co., Jennie Sutin of this city appeared in the common pleas court today to testify in her suit against the Soloway Co. She claims \$1,000 damages. The plaintiff says the car was attached as another person's property when it really belonged to her. The hearing was resumed this afternoon.

CARPENTERS ON STRIKE.

Putnam, Conn., April 8.—Carpenters here are on strike for a wage of one dollar an hour.

ARREST MORE PICKETERS.

Washington, April 8.—Irish pickets appeared at the British embassy again today and were promptly arrested by the police on charges of violating a Federal statute.

START SUIT TO SETTLE TITLE

**Bishop Family Defendants
In Action Over
Land.**

Members of the Bishop family of this city and other heirs of the late Joseph H. Tomlinson are named as defendants in a suit started by Annie Stowe of Stratford and Mary Rosenbaum of this city to settle the title to a plot of ten and one-half acres in Stratford. Papers in the action were filed today in the superior court.

The plaintiffs claim to own the property by virtue of a deed and also by having been in adverse possession for the past 15 years. The tract is bounded on the north by land owned by M. C. Bodge, on the east by Caroline Beardslee's land, on the south by Oliver Beardslee's holdings and on the west by M. C. Bodge's property.

The complaint states that the plaintiffs have heard that some claim to title in the property might be made by the Tomlinson heirs. Among those sued are Gen. Henry A. Bishop, Julian T. Bishop, Minnie L. Bishop, Mary Ferris Bishop, William D. Bishop, of New Haven; Susan Washburn Bishop, Margaret W. Tomlinson, Elsie Tomlinson of this city; Mrs. John H. Rayburn, Mary Tomlinson and Stephen Tomlinson, all of Fairfield.

TWO WARSHIPS SURRENDERED

London, April 8.—The German battleships Nassau and Ostfriesland arrived at the Fifth of Forth yesterday, this constituting the commencement of the surrender of the remainder of German warships under the terms of the treaty of Versailles.

Ultimately the Ostfriesland will be turned over to the American government and the admiralty is awaiting instructions from Washington regarding the date the vessel will depart for America.

TWO SUITS DISCLOSE COMPANIES' PROFITS

Some idea of the profits made by local ice dealers may be gained from figures quoted in two suits for aggregate damages of \$31,000 brought against the Naugatuck Valley Ice Co. and the Berkshire Ice Co. in the Superior Court today by C. A. Belisle of Providence, R. I. Belisle said he sold ice to the Naugatuck Co. for \$2.75 a ton last year and to the Berkshire Co. for \$2.4 a ton. Inasmuch as the public was forced to pay 60 cents a hundred pounds for ice the dealers must have cleared considerable more than expenses.

Belisle is suing the Naugatuck Co. for \$25,000. He claims the local company agreed to buy 7,000 tons of Maine ice from him last July. He received \$2,000 on account and 1,235 tons were accepted by the local company, which refused to receive the remainder.

Belisle said the ice was much as the public was forced to pay 60 cents a hundred pounds for ice the dealers must have cleared considerable more than expenses.

The Berkshire Co. is sued for \$6,000 on the ground that it ordered two boat loads of ice from Belisle. A total of 2,142 tons were delivered and \$2,908 was paid to Belisle, but he claims there is a balance still due him.

WEAVERS STRIKE

Putnam, Conn., April 8.—Weavers employed both night and day on tire fabric at the Manhusett Manufacturing company, went on strike today, demanding 55 hours pay for 48 hours work. This compelled the plant to shut down. Between 500 and 600 persons are employed in the mill.

Navy Never Better Prepared For War

Washington, April 8.—The vessels on the active list of the navy were never better prepared for war than when the United States joined the Allies and the navy department had "full and complete" plans, Admiral Wilson today told the Senate committee investigating the navy department's conduct of the world war. Replying to criticisms in the letter from Rear Admiral Sims to Secretary Daniels that caused the investigation, Admiral Wilson asserted that "from the moment war was declared the entire navy—the department as well as the fleet—entered into the prosecution of the war with the greatest energy and its accomplishments deserve the commendation of the nation."

Admiral Wilson, now commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, commanded the patrol force that first protected waters adjacent to the United States and later, based on Brest, France, co-operated in protecting Allied convoys in the war zone and hunting U-boats. (Continued on Page Eight.)

No Official Report on Yesterday's Disorders Received—Report German Regular Troops Shelling Dusseldorf With Gas Shells— French and German Patrols in Collision.

Mayence, April 8.—Complete order has been restored at Frankfurt the authorities having succeeded in quieting the students. The municipality has posted bills requesting the people to keep calm. The security police who were made prisoners at Frankfurt will be removed from the occupied territory by rail today.

Official reports relative to yesterday's disorders at Frankfurt where French troops clashed with a German crowd, killing six persons and wounding 35, have not yet been received, and accounts of the incident are being accepted with reserve.

A well authenticated report, however, states a force of 200 Moroccan soldiers was surrounded by a threatening mob that gathered in Schillerplatz about 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. The officer of the force became separated from his men and was hustled off by the Germans, and the men, seeing his arms waving above the heads of his captors, believed him in danger. One fired his rifle, and the others charged with the bayonet.

Paris, April 8.—German regular troops have bombarded Dusseldorf with gas shells, according to a Mayence despatch to the Associated Press. Reports that Great Britain and the United States had called upon France to withdraw her troops from Frankfurt are entirely without foundation. It was announced in an official note issued today.

"Certain agencies inspired by Germany," reads the note, "spread the report in Germany and some neutral countries that England and the United States had summoned France yesterday to remove her troops from (Continued on Page Eight.)"

ASSERT FACTORY PLANS EXTENSION

**Rumor Has It Addition to
Graphophone to Cost
Three Million.**

Bridgeport is to have another big expansion of its industrial activities, according to statements of prominent citizens today.

The Columbia Graphophone is reported to have had plans drawn for a very large extension to their plant in the East End. The improvements are to cost in the neighborhood of \$3,500,000. It will necessitate the increase of the working force from its present number of 8,000 to 20,000 in the course of two years, when it is expected that the new buildings will be ready for use.

This will make the Graphophone Co. the biggest plant in the city and probably the biggest in the country.

The demand for the machines and records made at the local plant is so great the company is unable to fill the orders.

It is also stated that there is a plan to amalgamate the work of making the Columbia and the Victor records at the plant in this city, as the Columbia company has reported to have taken over the Victor business.

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